

The background of the cover is an abstract painting with various faces and figures in shades of yellow, orange, red, and blue. The style is expressive and somewhat chaotic.

ISLAM & TELEVISION

MUJLISUL ULAMA OF SOUTH AFRICA

Islam & Television



MUJLISUL ULAMA OF SOUTH AFRICA



ادارہ اشاعت دینیات (پرائیویٹ) لمیٹڈ

IDARA ISHA'AT-E-DINIYAT (P) LTD.

Islam & Television

MUJLISUL ULAMA OF SOUTH AFRICA



ISBN 81-7101-540-9

Edition 2007

TP-069-07

Published by

IDARA ISHA'AT-E-DINIYAT (P) LTD.

168/2, Jha House, Hazrat Nizamuddin

New Delhi-110 013 (India)

Tel.: 2692 6832/33 Fax: +91-11-2632 2787

Email: sales@idara.com idara@yahoo.com

Visit us at: www.idara.com

Typesetted at: DTP Division

IDARA ISHA'AT-E-DINIYAT (P) LTD.

P.O. Box 9795, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 (India)

TELEVISION AND THE INSTITUTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY OR PICTURE- MAKING

THE DEFINITION OF TELEVISION

The Encyclopaedia Britannica defines television as follows:

"The electrical transmission of pictures in motion and the simultaneous electrical transmission of the accompanying sounds."

The Reader's Digest Great Encyclopaedic Dictionary defines television as:

"Simultaneous visual reproduction of scenes, objects, performances, etc.: vision of distant objects obtained thus."

The Encyclopaedia International explains television as:

"The unique feature that distinguishes television from radio is the conversion of an image into an electric current which is later reconverted to the original image.

"A picture 'encoded' in the form of a signal current is broadcast by a radio transmitter, picked up by the receiver's antenna, and routed to the television screen where the original scene becomes visible."

The Working Of Television

"The equipment consists of a camera which converts the image into electrical impulses; these are transmitted by radio to a receiver which converts the impulses by means of a cathode-ray tube into a

corresponding image on a screen."

The Image

"The illusion of motion in television is produced by showing 30 still pictures, or frames, each second. Through persistence of vision the brain retains each picture until the next comes along. We are not aware of the fact that our eyes are really seeing a rapidly changing sequence of a large number of slightly different still pictures. Each still picture consists of about 250 000 picture dots of varying brightness which appear as if painted on the screen. This process is called scanning."

Zworykin's Camera Tube

"The Russian-born American scientist made contributions that revolutionised television.... Scanning was accomplished electronically both in the camera-tube that observed the original scene and in the picture tube that reproduced the scene in the receiver. He called the camera tube an iconoscope (from Gr. icon, 'image'; scope, 'to, observe'). The screen that reproduced the image was called a kinescope (from Gr. kine, 'motion').

"By 1936 television engineers had created a system capable of reproducing excellent pictures on an 8 by 10 in. screen. In the spring of 1939 television finally entered the field of public entertainment." (Encyclopaedia International)

The Encyclopaedia International further explains:

Electronic Scanning

IN THE CAMERA. The concept of scanning can be illustrated by Zworykin's iconoscope, the first practical television camera tube. The heart of the iconoscope is a flat plate of insulating material. The plate is covered with a vast number of tiny droplets of a substance such as cesium-silver. . . . The picture to be televised is focussed on the mosaic of tiny droplets so that each droplet is associated with a particular picture dot, or small portion of the

image.

The way in which the charge on the signal plate varies in the course of time is therefore a picture in code. This picture signal can be reversed at the receiving end to reproduce the original scene.

“Although the iconoscope was an important technological achievement, it has now given way to the image orthicon for nearly all television broadcasting. The image orthicon is much more sensitive than its predecessor, and makes it possible to take better pictures with less illumination.

IN THE RECEIVER. Once the picture signal is produced in a television camera, it is broadcast much as though it were a voice current from a microphone. In order to reproduce the original picture, however, the signal must undergo special handling in the receiver. The original picture is reproduced in a cathode-ray, or picture tube, whose inner face is coated with a fluorescent material.... Thus an image can be “painted” in fluorescent light over the face of the tube by a controlled beam of electrons.

In the scanning process each spot on the screen glows as if painted with electrons. The beam is deflected rapidly from left to right to reconstruct one line of the picture. It then jumps back rapidly to the left, dropping to a point slightly below the beginning of the first line. It moves from left to right once more, completing the second line of the picture. The process is repeated many times until the lowest line is finished, after which the beam returns to the top left-hand corner of the screen to begin the next frame of the picture.

Colour Television

“In colour television three pictures are flashed on the television screen — one in each of the primary colours — and the result is a single picture in colour. A colour picture tube makes use of three different fluorescent materials which glow with red, green and blue light, respectively. The materials are painted on the screen in more than 600 000 tiny dots, divided equally among the three, colours.”

Three separate electron guns are used: . . . Each gun "paints" a picture in its own family of coloured dots, and the three pictures blend in the eye to, make us believe we are viewing the colours in the original scene.

In practice the three images are separated in the camera by filters of the primary colours. Each image is converted into a picture signal and transmitted to the corresponding electron gun in the colour picture tube.

The colour images on the screen are true copies of the three images produced in the studio.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica states:

".... This fundamental disparity is overcome in television by a process of image analysis and synthesis, whereby the scene to be televised is first translated into an electrical image, and the latter is then broken up into an orderly sequence of electrical impulses which are sent over the channel one after the other. At the receiver the impulses are translated back into a corresponding sequence of lights and shadows and these are reassembled in their correct positions on the viewing screen."

The Sunday Times TV Times and Colour Magazine says:

"Let us start with the TV camera. Your experience with cameras is probably limited to the one you have at home, which records the photographic image on film negative which after chemical treatment, is used to print a permanent picture on photographic paper.

"The point here is that the complete picture is instantaneously captured on the negative and the same picture is transmitted complete to the photographic paper.

"There is no known way of sending a whole picture through the air in one piece. It has to be sent bit by bit by electric impulses. The best analogy for me to use is the black and white picture in a newspaper.

".... The TV camera follows the same principle. It sends out electric impulses, which are picked up by the picture tube in your

set.

More than a million dots are needed to cover your screen, and the process of scanning the 625 lines is repeated 25 times every second. So you get the impression of receiving a complete, moving picture instead of one that in fact builds itself down the face of your screen."

The Encyclopaedia Britannica further explains:

"This sequential reproduction of visual images is feasible only because the visual sense displays persistence; that is, the brain retains the impression of illumination for about 0,1 second after the source of light is removed from the eye. If, therefore, the process of image; synthesis occurs within less than 0,1 second, the eye is unaware that the picture is being reassembled piecemeal, and the viewing screen appears as if its whole surface were continuously illuminated. By the same token, it is then possible to re-create more than ten complete pictures per second and to simulate thereby the motion of the scene so that it appears to be continuous.

"In practice, to depict rapid movement smoothly, it is customary to transmit from 25 to 30 complete pictures per second. To provide detail sufficient to accommodate a wide range of subject matter, it is customary to analyse each picture into 100 000 or more elementary details. This analysis implies that the rate at which these details are transmitted over the television system exceeds 2000 000 details per second."

"As already noted, in modern practice the televised image must be capable of being dissected, within a few hundredths of a second, into more than 100 000 picture elements. This implies that the electrical impulses corresponding to the picture elements must pass through the channel at a rate as high as several million per second.

"The first requirement to be met in image analysis is that the reproduced picture shall not flicker, since flicker induces severe optical fatigue.

“...A way round this difficulty (i.e. flickering) has been found, in motion pictures as well as in television, by projecting each picture twice.

“...In television, each image is analysed and synthesised in two sets of spaced lines, one of which fits successively within the spaces of the other. Thus the picture area is illuminated twice during each complete picture transmission

“Actually, the screen possesses nearly 1000 000 holes in an area of 1,5 sq. inch, compared with the roughly 200 000 picture elements into which the image is dissected.

“The stored charge image on the reverse side of the target is canned by an electron beam.

Summary Of The Above Discussion

1. The PICTURE to be televised is focussed on the iconoscope which translates the image into an electrical signal.
2. The iconoscope has been replaced by the modern IMAGE ORTHICON which is much more sensitive than its predecessor and makes it possible to take better PICTURES.
3. The PICTURE signal is reversed at the receiving end to REPRODUCE the original scene.
4. The scene which appears on the television screen is a PICTURE of the original scene viewed by the TV camera. The scene on the TV screen is not the original scene, but a DUPLICATE of the original scene.
5. The TV camera converts the image into electrical impulses which are transmitted to a receiver. These electrical impulses are converted into an image which is projected onto the screen of the TV set.
6. The reproduced image corresponds to the original scene taken by the TV cameras.

7. Because the process of image synthesis occurs within less than 0,1 second the human eye cannot detect that the PICTURE (taken by the TV camera) is being re-assembled bit by bit.
8. Twenty-five to thirty complete PICTURES per second are transmitted over the TV system.
9. Each PICTURE consists of 100 000 or more electrical dots which are reassembled after transmission to form the PICTURE on the screen.
10. The illusion of motion on the TV screen is caused by the swift and speedy transmission of large numbers of pictures, i.e. 25 to 30 complete pictures per second.
11. The TV screen possesses nearly 1000 000 holes in an area of 1,5 sq. inches.
12. The impression of receiving a complete, moving picture is illusory. In fact, the PICTURE builds itself down the face of the TV screen.

It was necessary to present a technical discussion regarding certain aspects of the functioning of the television system in order to remove a misconception which exists in certain quarters. There are some among our brethren who contend that in "live" TV shows the principle of photography (which is one of the methods of picture-making) is not employed. This baseless contention is a consequence of total ignorance of the mechanics and construction of the TV system. However, we hope that after perusal of the aforementioned discussion this misconception is dispelled, Insha'Allah.

It should at this juncture be said that the undesirability and the Islamic prohibition of this institution of television is not based solely on the stand that photography (picture-making) of animate objects is employed. Without minimising the importance and the decisiveness of the prohibitory factor of picture-making it has to be said that a number of other evil and un-Islamic factors accompany the institution of television. It is this conglomeration of evil factors

which make television illegal in Islam although, in most cases, each single one of these factors is sufficient to secure the verdict of illegality of TV. Insha'Allah, we shall outline these prohibitory factors or ASBAABUL HURMAT of television in the ensuing pages.

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Every picture-maker will be in Hell".

PICTURE-MAKING — THE MOTHER OF TELEVISION

In the technical discussion on TV it was shown that photography which is merely a method of picture-making is the actual basis of TV. Without the institution of photography television is not possible. Whether shows are "live" or otherwise, the institution of photography is employed. Now, according to the Law of Islam PICTURE-MAKING of animate objects is severely criticised and banned. In our booklet on PICTURES and PHOTOGRAPHY (which shall be released soon, Insha'Allah) the Islamic ban on pictures of animate objects has been explained in detail. Since we have outlined the Islamic Law pertaining to photography or pictures of animate objects in a separate booklet, we shall content ourselves to mention here only the relevant Ahadith of our Nabi ﷺ and his noble Companions (Ra.) pertaining to the prohibition of pictures of animate objects.

1. Abu Talha ؓ reported that the Messenger of Allah said: "Angels do not enter a house in which there is a dog or a picture". (Sahihul Muslim)
2. Aisha (Radiyallahu Anha) said: "The Messenger of Allah ﷺ returned from a journey and I had screened my door with a curtain having on it pictures of winged horses. He commanded me to remove it". (Sahihul Muslim)
3. Rasulullah ﷺ said: "The most grievous punishment on the Day of Resurrection will be for those who imitate Allah in the act of creation (i.e. making pictures and images)". (Sahihul Muslim)
4. Aisha (Radiyallahu Anha) reported that she had bought a

carpet which had pictures on it. When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ saw it, he remained outside and did not enter. I perceived signs of disgust on his face. She said: "O Messenger of Allah, I offer repentance to Allah and His Messenger — what is the sin which I have committed?" Thereupon Rasulullah ﷺ said: "What is this carpet?" She said: "I bought it for you so that you might sit on it and take rest". Rasulullah ﷺ replied: "The owners of these pictures will be punished and they will be commanded to give life to what they tried to create". He then said: "Angels do not enter the house in which there is a picture". (Sahihul Muslim)

5. A person came to Ibn Abbas ؓ and said: "I am a person who paints pictures, therefore give me a verdict about them". Ibn Abbas ؓ said: "Come near me". He approached near, so much so that Iba Abbas ؓ placed his hand upon his head and said:

"I shall narrate to you what I heard from Allah's Messenger ﷺ. I heard him say: 'All the makers of pictures will be in the fire of Hell. A soul will be breathed in every picture prepared by the picture-maker and it will torment him in the fire of Hell'." Ibn Abbas ؓ then said: "If you have to do it at all, then paint pictures of trees and lifeless objects". (Sahihul Muslim)

6. Ibn Abbas ؓ reported: I heard the Messenger of Allah ﷺ say: "Every picture-maker will be in the fire of Hell. A body will be created for every picture made by the picture-maker, and this body will torment him (the picture-maker) in Hell". (Mishkaat)

7. Abu Hurairah ؓ reported that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Jibrael came to me and said: 'I came to you last night, but was prevented from entering because there were pictures at the door and a fine screen with pictures on it, and there was a dog in the house. Cut off the head of the picture's that it may resemble a tree. And, cut up the screen and convert it into pillows. And, have the dog driven out of

the house.

(Mishkaat — Abu Dawood, Tirmizi)

8. Abu Hurairah رضي الله عنه reported that Rasulullah ﷺ said: "A neck from Hell will emerge on the Day of Resurrection. It will have two eyes, two ears and a tongue. It will say: 'I have been entrusted to torment three types of persons — every rebellious oppressor, everyone who associated another in the worship of Allah, and the picture-makers'.

(Mishkaat — Tirmizi)

9. Aishah (Radiyallahu Anha) reported that during an illness of Rasulullah ﷺ some of his wives spoke about a church which they had seen in Abyssinia. Umme Salamah (Radiyallahu Anha) and Umme Habibah (Radiyallahu Anha) had been to Abyssinia, and they were describing the pictures which they had seen there. Rasulullah ﷺ then raised his hand and said: "They (i.e. the Christians) are such people who, when a pious one among them dies, build a place of worship over his grave and then draw pictures in it (the place of worship). They are the worst of the creation of Allah".

(Mishkaat — Bukhari, Muslim)

10. Ibn Abbas رضي الله عنه reported that Rasulullah ﷺ said: "The most grievous punishment on the Day of Qiyamah will be meted out to one who killed a Prophet, who killed one of his parents, the picture-makers and a learned man who did not benefit by his knowledge".

(Mishkaat — Baihq)

11. The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said: "Every picture-maker will be in the Fire".

(Bukhari)

There are many more Ahadith of our Nabi ﷺ which sternly and emphatically prohibit pictures of all living objects. However, we shall content ourselves with the abovementioned Ahadith as these are more than sufficient for all seekers of the Truth. These Ahadith are highly unambiguous and leave no doubt as to the attitude Islam takes with regard to this picture of idolatry and immorality — viz. picture-making, the root of all idolatry and evil.

Another point we have to stress here is the fact that ALL FOUR

MAZHABS — Hanafi, Shafi, Maliki and Hambali — unanimously brand the practice of pictures PROHIBITED and the perpetrators as participants in KABIRAH (great) sin and as such they qualify for the epithet FAASIQ given by the Shariah to all rebellious sinners. It has been necessary to make this statement because there are many who hoodwink the unwary Muslim public criminally and cruelly by claiming that the practice of pictures is permissible in Islam. These are “the learned men” who have sold the Deen down the river. They have betrayed Allah Ta’ala; they have betrayed Rasulullah ﷺ and they have betrayed the sacred TRUST of SAFEGUARDING and DEFENDING the DEEN which accompanies the Trust of Islamic Knowledge.

MUSIC AND TELEVISION

We can consider music as an integral part of television programmes. No TV show is complete without music. Islam has forbidden music in no mistaken terms. We have dealt with the subject of music with regard to the Shariah in a separate booklet. This booklet on music shall be published shortly, hence, it is not necessary to repeat the details of the subject in this booklet of TV. For the purposes of the present subject it will suffice to state that Islam categorically forbids all types of music. Music in Islam is regarded as a Kabirah (great) sin. With regard to music our Nabi ﷺ said:

“Music sows hypocrisy in the heart like water causes seeds to grow in soil.”

“Verily, Allah Ta’ala sent me as a mercy unto mankind, and as a guide unto mankind. And, my Creator has commanded me with the destruction of musical instruments.”

“Among the Signs of the Final Hour are the abundant appearance of singing girls and musical instruments.”

“There will be men from among my Ummat who will consume alcohol, giving it another name (so as to deceive themselves and others). Singing girls and musical instruments will be playing to them. Allah Ta’ala will cause the earth to swallow them. Allah will transform them into apes and swines.”

The following verdicts are recorded in the Law Books of Islam:

“Musical instruments are HARAAM according to the

unanimous opinion of the Fuqahaa (Jurists) of all the lands (of Islam)."

"The playing of musical instruments and listening to them are HARAAM."

The Fuqahaa say that the verse of the Holy Quran,

"And among mankind are those who purchase futile talk so as to Lead astray men..."

Was revealed specifically to ban music and singing.

According to the Law of Islam one who participates in music is regarded as a FAASIQ, and as such, the Fuqahaa state that the evidence of such a person is not to be accepted.

And when they (the Believers) hear what is futile they turn away from it, and they say, Unto us our deeds; and, unto you your deeds. Peace upon you. We do not follow the ignorant ones. (Quran)

NUDITY IMMORALITY AND TELEVISION

The most glaring evil propagated by the television media of the world is the crime of nudity and sexual immorality. Commercialised nudity and sexual immorality under the camouflage of "educational" pictures are accepted and necessary features of world television. The Western world is haunted by the obsession of illicit sex, and it is this carnal obsession of illicit sex coupled with the unbeliever's god of materialism which makes capital of the female body on TV as well as all other mass media.

The Islamic concept of morality and modesty is the very antithesis of the immorality and lasciviousness dished out to the world via TV. Islam demands the concealment of the female body. Said the Holy Messenger of Allah ﷺ:

المرءة عورة

"Woman is an object of concealment"

(The subject of woman's concealment referred to by Rasulullah ﷺ in the above-quoted Hadith will be dealt with in a separate booklet entitled HIJAAB in ISLAM. We hope to release this booklet too, shortly, Insha'Allah.)

But, TV is an institution which is widely used to exhibit the female body. Islam has banned all forms of immorality and immodesty, but TV exhibits immodesty and immorality in their crudest forms by depicting the actual sex acts and, above all, it audaciously and shamelessly passes these off as "educational". Television as a prime agent of immorality is very well borne out by the following reports:

Referring to nudity on TV in Holland, the Sunday Times of 25th August, 1974, states:

"TV shows of nudity are now almost as common as clogs and baggy trousers."

"The series will probably shake South Africans if they were able to understand the extensive Dutch sex dictionary. Not only because every aspect of lovemaking is shown in detail — either live or in animated drawings — but because of the language used."

The Evening Post dated 21st February, 1975, reports:

"In the film Dr. Christopher is seen holding up a contraceptive sheath and explaining its use to a class of boys and girls. Called 'Sex and the 14-year old', the film concentrates on advising young people how to avoid pregnancy."

Evening Post, 26th August 1975:

"Bare breasts, long barred from family television screens in the United States are showing up on daytime and late-night TV in advertisements . .

Evening Post, 3rd July, 1974:

"The BBC said jokes with sexual overtones could help children later to cope more easily with cruder forms of humour."

Under the caption, SEX FILMS ON TELEVISION GET M.P.'s APPROVAL, the Herald's London Correspondent writes:

"The radio programme is illustrated with brightly coloured paintings, which include full frontal nude pictures of a man and woman, the cut-away view of a child in a womb, and a couple having intercourse. The commentary explains how intercourse takes place and accompanies the illustrations."

Eastern Province Herald, 8th December, 1969:

"The television programme also explains the facts of intercourse and shows a woman giving birth."

Tomorrow's World, August, 1971:

"An almost unbelievable avalanche of sex, perversion, pornography, 'blue' films, sadism, masochism, bestiality, murder, rape and brutality has flooded into the public view through the modern 'boob tube' of television, or movies and lurid novels.

"In British television, almost unbelievable references to lewdness, perverted sex and depravity are as open and unabashed as news reports."

The above-quoted extracts will suffice to indicate the sordid mess and mass of unspeakable immorality portrayed by the TV. Leading non-Muslims too have voiced their concern and consternation over the evils and filth shown on the TV screen.

Rasulullah ﷺ said: "Shamelessness (immodesty) is vice, and vice will be in the fire."

TELEVISION AS AN AGENT OF ZINA (FORNICATION)

Allah Ta'ala says in the Holy Quran:

"And, Come Not Near To Zina."

The terms, "COME NOT NEAR" means:

Stay Away From All Such Things And Practices, Which Lead To Zina — Which Are Stepping-Stones To Fornication.

All practices, things and institutions which aid and foster fornication and immodesty are forbidden by Islam. There are different categories of this abominable crime of Zina. Our Holy Nabi ﷺ said:

العينان زناها النظر والاذنان زناهما الاستماع واللسان زناها الكلام واليه
زناها البطش والرجل زناها الخطى والقلب يهوى ويتمنى ويصدق ذلك
الفرج ويكذبه.
(مسلم)

"The zina of the eyes is to gaze (at that which is unlawful, e.g. nudity); the zina of the ears is to listen (to talks of nudity which excites the carnal desire); the zina of the tongue is to speak (what is evil); the zina of the hand is to touch (the female which is unlawful to you); the zina of the feet is to walk (towards immorality); the zina of the heart is to desire (what is unlawful), and it is the private part which either commits or shuns the actual act of fornication."

(Sahihul Muslim)

In this Hadith the Holy Messenger of Allah ﷺ speaks of the

zina committed by the various parts of the human body. Thus, to look at the nudity and evil portrayed on the television screen constitutes the *zina of the eyes* as said by Rasulullah ﷺ:

العينان ذناها النظر

“The *zina* of the eyes is to look.”

To listen to the immodest and illicit sex talks of the television is *zina* of the ears, as Rasulullah ﷺ said:

الاذنان زناهما الاستماع

“The *zina* of the ears is to listen.”

Lust which is aroused by the display, discussion of nudity and lasciviousness and perversion on the TV screen constitutes the *zina of the heart* as our Nabi ﷺ said:

القلب يهوى ويتمنى

“The *zina* of the heart is to desire.”

Television, therefore, is without any doubt a powerful agent and a stepping stone for fornication. In one Hadith our Nabi ﷺ said: that among the signs of the Final Approaching Hour is that the whole family (father, mother and children) will collectively indulge in *zina*. Hazrat Maulana Yusuf Binnuri has interpreted this Hadith as a reference to this modern mother of immorality, the TV. We find today the whole family — father, mother, sons and daughters— sitting huddled together around the TV set viewing the obscenity and the nudity exhibited on the TV screen. Together, in a display of stark shamelessness, the whole family is committing *zina of the eyes*, *zina of the ears* and *zina of the heart*, and Allah alone knows how many multitudes of men and women indulged in the final act of fornication as a result of watching and being aroused by the evil on the TV screen. Ponder over the words of Rasulullah ﷺ and see the link the following reports:

The Sunday Times of the 25th August, 1974, in a report captioned:

No Sex Holds Barred On Dutch TV,

States:

"So it is intended for the whole family, children included. Entitled 'Open en Bloot' (Frank and Nude) the theme is education and unveiled frankness."

The Evening Post dated 21st February, 1975, in a report under the title:

Teenage Sexlesson On TV

States:

"The programme was aimed at parents watching with their families.

"Called 'Sex and the 14-year old', the film concentrates on advising young people how to avoid pregnancy."

Islam lays great emphasis on modesty, so much so, that our Nabi ﷺ said:

"Modesty is a part of Imaan (Faith)."

But TV with its emphasis on illicit, depraved and bestial immorality is the very negation of the Islamic concept of modesty and shame, Mother, father and children together viewing the zina — the fornication and vice on the TV screen — what is now left of humanity? May Allah Ta'ala protect us and our children from the filth and depravity of the Western world sunk in perversion and immorality.

"Today (the Day of *Qiyamah*) we shall seal their mouths — and, their hands shall speak (the evil they committed); And their feet will bear evidence as to what they practised." (Quran)

TELEVISION AND CRIME IN GENERAL

Television, besides being a powerful agent of immorality, generally fosters various types of crime. Violence, aggression, robberies, murder, etc., are crimes which the young readily learn from TV shows. Much of the delinquency and youth crimes being perpetrated in the Western world could be traced to the TV. In an article entitled: *TV SHOWS BLAMED FOR CRIMES*, Los Angeles judge, Mark Brandler, blasted a TV crime show recently as the cause of a "seven-hour nightmare" in which two teenagers taped shotguns to the heads of hostages and extracted a huge ransom from a Californian bank.

The Eastern Province Herald, dated 5th March, 1975, in a report on the harmful effects of TV states:

"Young people who mimic crimes seen on TV are showing up in increasing numbers."

"On some evenings, with a little channel switching, viewers can watch as many as five cops and robbers shows."

"On a recent Wednesday, in Los Angeles, for instance, one could keep company with murderous psychopaths, mobsters, kidnappers and bank robbers."

"The growing syndrome of public failure to respond — even by calling the police by telephone — to a victim's cries for help is partially blamed by many researchers on TV."

"...But the TV crime wave goes on, and America's

crime rate continues to soar. More studies are under way, trying to determine how many, to what extent, and what kinds of children are effected and in what ways."

TELEVISION ENCOURAGES ACCEPTANCE OF AGGRESSION

The regular and continuous shows of violence and aggression slowly, but most certainly, claim their victims. Viewers are "brainwashed" by the perpetual scenes of violence to such an extent that violence and aggressiveness becomes accepted as a mode of behaviour.

"The effect of TV on victim, if not perpetrator, has now been investigated by quite a number of psychiatrists, sociologists and behavioural scientists, and the consensus of opinion is perhaps best summed up in the warning by Dr. Robert Liebert, a child psychologist who was a leading researcher in the United States Surgeon General's investigation into TV and social behaviour: violence on home screens encourages 'an acceptance of aggression as a mode of behaviour'."

(Eastern Province Herald, 5th March, 1975)

TELEVISION ENCOURAGES IMITATION OF CRIME

Research has established that TV exercises a very strong influence on the minds of people causing them to imitate and enact the crime shown on the TV screen. The Eastern Province Herald reported:

"Not only may it stimulate an impressionable or disturbed individual into attempting to duplicate the crime, it also makes viewers more insensitive to violence perpetrated by others."

"Perfectly normal children," says Dr. Liebert, "will imitate anti-social behaviour they see on television,

not out of malice, but curiosity.”

“In showing displays of violence and criminal acts, the media is ‘teaching’, people are ‘learning’, he says.”

(Eastern Province Herald, 5th March, 1975)

The spiralling crime rate initiated and fostered by television is causing alarm among even non-Muslims. They have realised the moral, spiritual and human decadence and destruction which follow in the wake of TV, hence some men of authority are exploring avenues to protect society from the evils of TV.

“As a result of the fuss, the FCC (Federal Communications Commission) was ticked off by the House and Senate Appropriations committees and told to report on fresh measures to curb video violence or face ‘punitive action’.

“FCC chairman Richard Wiley then approached the network chiefs and persuaded them to get to work on some specific plans to ‘protect children from excessive violence and obscenity’.”

(Eastern Province Herald, 5th March, 1975)

THE BRAINWASHING ACTION OF TELEVISION

Researchers have established that the young minds of children are readily susceptible to being brainwashed by TV. In America organisations have been formed in scores of cities in order to fight the evil effect of TV on children. The President of the Organisation, Action For Children’s Television, a Boston-based parents’ organisation with branches in 60 cities says:

“Our kids are being bombarded with so many messages per hour that they are being brainwashed.”

“At present, from Monday to Friday, children are subjected to 16 minutes of commercials an hour, and 12 minutes an hour on weekends.”

"Television advertisers in America are pouring unprecedented millions of dollars into the child slots for the autumn season, despite a storm of public indignation over 'brainwashing' on children's shows."

TELEVISION STUNTS INTELLECTUAL GROWTH

An eminent American educationist, Professor Lowell Little, claims that TV raises ignorant students. At an education seminar in Florida he said:

"Today's youth are so used to plopping down in front of a television set and not having to put their brains to work that when they come to sit in the classroom of a university all they are capable of doing is day-dreaming and vacantly watching the clock.

"It is a nationwide and possibly world-wide dilemma.

"As the first generation of youngsters all but raised on television has now reached college age it is abundantly clear that the boob tube (i.e. television) has destroyed any curiosity they may ever have had." Professor Little said that there was no mistaking the malign influence of "idiot television".

"People, 25 or younger, have had a diet of television and it shows," he said. "When they talk it is so much immature drivel and they imitate the appalling grammar they hear on the tube.

"Their level of communication is just at the sixth grade level.

"Television has more influence on them than parents, teachers or clergy — and that is a disgrace.

"If I get through to four students out of 80 and arouse their interest that's the best I can expect."

THE ADDICTIVE INFLUENCE OF TELEVISION

The addictive influence of TV over its viewers is a serious malady which has reached alarming proportions. Viewers become so addicted to TV that it becomes most difficult for most viewers to live without TV. Research in this field of the "addictive influence

of TV" has established that if those who are addicted to TV are deprived of television they become increasingly nervous, short-tempered and unhappy. In an article captioned: MILLIONS, ADDICTED TO THE BOX, the Eastern Province Herald of the 23rd October, 1975, reports:

"Television has become the biggest leisure influence in many nations, with millions glued to the small screen every evening. Viewers have become addicted to it."

Television's addictive grip was emphasised some months before when three socially varied 'guinea pig' families agreed to try a switch-off for a month. The 'lowest income family could stand the deprivation only a week; the other two lasted for four weeks, hating every minute of it. They said they felt as if they had lost a friend, were depressed and thought their work was suffering too.

"In an earlier psychological experiment 182 West Germans volunteered to try to give up television for a year, with the inducement of payment as long as they kept off. One brave family stood the strain for nearly six months — till they wanted to watch a crime serial. The first volunteer, a bachelor, failed after three weeks. Others became increasingly nervous, short-tempered and unhappy. There is little doubt that a similar experiment would have the same result in a Britain dominated by the cathode (television) culture"

A survey conducted by the Audio-Visual Centre of Sydney Teachers' College (Australia) established the following with regard to the influence of t Television:

"In the final analysis, it is possible that the media, especially television, have superseded the influence of school, church, perhaps family as the major source of children's values and ideas."

(Mr. Kevin Tindall, Director Of The Audio-Visual Centre)

Rasulullah ﷺ said: "The eyes and sight are poisonous arrows of Satan".

"Every gaze has attached to it the desire of Satan."

TELEVISION DIVERTS MAN'S ATTENTION FROM THE REMEMBRANCE OF ALLAH

Our Nabi ﷺ said:

كل شيء من لهو الدنيا باطل الا ثلاثة انتضالك بقوسك وتاديتك فرسك
وملاعبتك اهلك فانهم من الحق (رواه الحاكم في المستدرک وقال حديث
صحيح على شرط مسلم)

"Every play (sport or amusement) of the world excepting three (types of play) is BAATIL (baseless, null and not permissible) — (the three types being) your practising with your bow and arrow; your training your horse and your playing with your family."

(Narrated By Hakim In Mustadrak, the Hadith is Sahih (Authentic) in terms of the Conditions of Imam Muslim)

Allah Ta'ala says in the Holy Quran:

"The life of this world is but play and amusement,
And, the Abode of the Hereafter is best for those who
Fear (ALLAH)."

The above stated Hadith and verse of the Holy Quran, as well as many other verses of the Quran and Ahadith make it quite clear that Islam does not tolerate futility, idle sport and amusement. This is so because amusement and entertainment divert one's attention from the Remembrance of Allah Ta'ala. Amusement and entertainment which Islam describes as LAHW, LA'B make a person indolent, negligent and irresponsible. Hence, we find Rasulullah ﷺ

condemning very strongly even such play as chess and backgammon, etc. Said the Holy Messenger of Allah ﷺ:

من لعب بالشطرنج والرد فكانما غمس يده في دم خنزير

“Whosoever plays with chess and backgammon has dipped his hands in the blood of swine.”

On the basis of this Hadith as well as other Ahadith and the general spirit of Islam as regards futility and amusement, the Fuqaha state:

ويكره اللعب بالشطرنج الرد وكل لهو لانه هو عبث ولهو وهو حرام وقال عليه السلام لهو المؤمن باطل الا ثلث تاديه لفرسه ومناضله عن قوسه وملاعبته مع اهله ولانه نوع لعب يصد عن ذكر الله وعن الجمع والجماعات فيكون حرام لقوله عليه السلام ما الهالك عن ذكر الله فهو ميسر وكره ابو يوسف ومحمد التسليم عليهم تحذيراً لهم (كذافي الهداية)

“It is forbidden to play chess, backgammon; the indulgence in every amusement (or play) is forbidden because this is futile and idleness. And, this (futility) is Haraam (prohibited). The Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

The play of a Mumim (Believer) is Baatil (baseless, null and not permissible), but on three occasions — his training his horse; his practising with his cross-bow, and his playing with his family.’

“And, because it (chess) is a kind of play which diverts one’s attention from Zikrullah (Remembrance of Allah), from attendance of Jamaat Salaat. Therefore, it is Haraam (Also) because Rasullullah ﷺ said:

“Whatever diverts your attention from Zikrullah is gambling.’

“Imam Abu Yusuf (Ra.) and Imam Muhammad (Ra.) maintain

that it is not permissible to offer salutations (to say Assalamu Alaikum) to people indulging in chess games. This is, so as to act as a warning to them.” (Hidayah, as well as other Fiqh Books)

The aforementioned quotations will suffice to show that amusement and entertainments are prohibited in Islam. The reasons for their prohibition can briefly be summed up as follows:

1. It is futility and idleness which our Nabi ﷺ forbade.
2. It diverts one's attention from the Remembrance of Allah and, Remembrance of Allah is in fact the PURPOSE for which Allah Ta'ala has created man.
3. It interferes with one's Ibadat causing neglect of Salaat and Jamaat attendance
4. it causes one to become neglectful of one's social duties.

The Islamic ban on entertainment and amusement applies to all forms and practices which contain the abovementioned elements. In fact, the following statement of our Nabi ﷺ covers all types of diversionary play and amusement:

“The Play Of A Believer Is Baatil.”

“Every Play Of The World Is Baatil, excepting three types of play . . . (Hadith already quoted above).”

Besides the four abovementioned factors (futility, diversion of attention from zikrullah, interference with Ibadat and negligence in one's social duties) several other outright evil elements (as already explained) exist in television. Research has established the “diversionary” influence of television. The addictive grip which TV exercises on its viewers is such that it very effectively diverts the attention from the remembrance of Allah and from things of importance. When Islam has forbidden games such as chess because of the existence of two or three harmful factors, it is inconceivable that television with a host of evil and harmful elements could be permissible.

Research on Television has shown

Research studies on the effects and influence of television on society has shown:

That the average American child stares at more than 11000 murders on television by the age of 14.

That most American children spend more time before a set than with their teacher in any one year.

That violence on television can make addictive young watchers into aggressive sadists.

That television has become the biggest leisure influence in many nations, with millions glued to the screen every evening.

That three-quarters of homes in one British Midlands industrial area were found to have the television on the entire evening every day.

That in a national survey many young viewers claimed to watch television for up to 46 hours a week.

That viewers, if deprived of television become depressed, short-tempered, nervous and unhappy.

That television has changed and is still changing British life physically, culturally and socially.

That TV devours old attitudes, values and assumptions and leaves in their place an illusory euphoria.

That people become more addicted to TV in middle age.

That television takes one away from reality.

That TV has created a "vast tribe of mini-stars, pop-idols, schmaltzy gurus, talking-heads, telegogues and cardboard "personalities" whose only achievement is to be on the box.

That TV causes lethargy in children

That television is responsible for the falling standard of literacy.

That millions of dollars are spent by advertisers to "brainwash" children by means of television to increase demand for consumer goods.

That 90 per cent of university students who are addicted to TV are immature, their level of communication being at the sixth grade level.

That TV has more influence on students than their parents, teachers or clergy.

That television destroys social action.

That television encourages an acceptance of aggression as a mode of behaviour.

That television stimulates impressionable and disturbed individuals into attempting to duplicate the crime shown on the screen.

That television makes viewers insensitive to violence perpetrated by others.

That public apathy and failure to respond to a victim's cries for help is blamed on television

That television encourages perfectly normal children to imitate anti-social behaviour they see on the screen.

That television, in showing criminal acts is actually teaching, and viewers are actually learning these crimes.

That television advertising gets people to accept nonsense and leads them towards fantasy.

That television encourages people to a system of belief that relies heavily on the concept of magic.

That television is the enemy of traditional standards.

That television is detrimental to the physical and mental health of children.

That television is detrimental to the scholastic work of students. That television is responsible to a large extent for the violence and delinquency prevalent in the Western world.

That violence filmed in such surroundings which are familiar to young television viewers and shown in newsreels are bad for children.

WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT TELEVISION

"United States research shows that violence on television can make addictive young watchers into aggressors and even sadists."

(Eastern Province Herald, 23rd Oct., 1975)

"The Church of England General Synod, in a report to a Government appointed committee deplores scenes of heavy drinking, chain smoking and casual use of obscene language and blasphemous language on TV."

(Eastern Province Herald, 23rd Oct., 1975)

The psychiatrists, Dr. William Tompkins of the George Washington School of Medicine, and Dr. Paul Fink of the East Virginia Medical School, have been engaged in intensive research into the effect on people of television advertising. They say that TV commercials "encourage belief in mysticism by making viewers believe they can get what they want almost by magic".

Dr. Tompkins says:

"Television advertising gets us to accept nonsense and leads us to go looking for a fantasy world."

Los Angeles judge, Mark Brandler, recently blasted a TV show as the cause of a "seven-hour nightmare" in which two teenagers taped shotguns to heads of hostages and extracted a huge sum as ransom from a Californian bank.

"The effect of TV on victim, if not perpetrator, has now been investigated by quite a number of psychiatrists, sociologists and behavioural scientists, and the consensus of opinion is perhaps

best summed up in the warning by Dr. Robert. Liebert, a child psychologist who was a leading researcher in the United States Surgeon General's investigation into TV and social behaviour: violence on home screens encourages 'an acceptance of aggression as a mode of behaviour.

"...The FCC (Federal Communications Commission) was ticked off by the House and Senate Appropriation Committee and told to report on fresh measures to curb video violence or face 'punitive action'."

FCC chairman, Richard Wiley approached the network chiefs and persuaded them to get to work on some specific plans to "protect children from excessive violence and obscenity".

Dr. Liebert says: "Perfectly normal children will imitate anti-social behaviour they see on the television, not out of malice, but curiosity." In showing displays of violent and criminal acts, the media is "teaching", and people are "learning", he says.

"But the TV crime wave goes on, and America's crime rate continues to soar." (Eastern Province Herald, 5th March, 1975)

"When television comes to South Africa it would kill most social action, as it had in other countries, Professor Jan Beer-man, Professor of Public Administration at the University of Cape Town, said." (Evening Post)

Professor Lowell Little, an eminent American educationist says:

"There was no mistaking the malign influence of 'idiot' television."

Mr. Tindall, Director of the Audio-Visual Centre of Sydney Teachers' College said: "Children were learning that violence is not only rampant but frequently justified."

"For years, people had been saying the good thing about TV was that it brought news to the living room. But the survey indicated that few children, if given the option, watched the news or current affairs."

"An almost unbelievable avalanche of sex, perversion, pornography, blue films, sadism, masochism, bestiality, murder, rape and brutality has flooded into the public view through the modern 'boob tube' of television, or the movies and lurid novels." "In British television, almost unbelievable references to lewdness, perverted sex and depravity are as open and unabashed as news reports."

(Tomorrow's World, August, 1971)

CONCLUSION

It has now been seen that in the institution of television there exists a host of evil and un-Islamic factors, viz.,

1. Pictures (of animate objects) and picture-making.
2. Music.
3. Immorality — nudity, illicit-sex, pornography, etc.
4. Obscene language.
5. Agent of zina (fornication).
6. Negation of Hayaa (or shame and modesty).
7. Scenes of violence, sadism and crime in general portrayed.
8. Addictive influence exercised by TV.
9. Encourages acceptance of aggression as mode of behaviour.
10. Encourages imitation of crimes portrayed.
11. Brainwashing action of TV — especially on the young.
12. TV stunts intellectual growth.
18. Wasting of time.
14. Interferes with one's religious duties.
15. Interferes with one's necessary and important worldly duties.
16. Diverts one's attention from the Remembrance of Allah.
17. Falls under the category described by Islam as LAHW (لهو)

In the face of this formidable array of evil factors and harmful

effects no one can have any doubt about the illegality of television in Islam. Television, as has been seen, is an embodiment of sin and immorality. Islam can never condone or permit an institution which play havoc with the spiritual, mental and moral development of mankind. The consequences of television are most disastrous for the well-being of man. Television, in fact, subdues and subverts the entire nation morally, culturally and spiritually. The moral fibre of a nation is destroyed by the evil effect of TV. A nation of TV lovers become obsessed with immorality and crime.

The spiritual development of man is uppermost in the Islamic conception of man's life on earth. Islam categorically states that Allah Ta'ala has created man ONLY for the purpose of worshipping and obeying HIM. All other facets and aspects of life are to be made subservient to this prime purpose of man's life, viz., obedience unto Allah Ta'ala. Man's social life, political life, economic life are all to be subjected, governed and controlled so as to foster the spiritual progress of man. Any practice or institution harmful to the spiritual well-being of man; any agent which interferes with the full realisation of the Purpose for which Allah Ta'ala has created man, can never be tolerated by the benevolent Law of Allah. Precisely for this reason, viz., safeguarding man against destructive elements, has Islam banned all types of futility, entertainment and games which divert man's attention from the Remembrance of Allah.

روى عن علي بن ابي طالب عنه انه مرّ بقوم يلعبون بالشطرنج فقال ماهذه
التمائيل التي انتم لما عاكفون

"Hazrat Ali Ibn Talib ؓ once passed by a group of people playing the game of chess. He then said:

'What are these idols which you are worshipping?'"

وروى مثل هذا عن عمر ايضاً حين مرّ بقوم يلعبون بالشطرنج وقد شبه
عملهم بعمل عبادة الاوثان.

"A similar Hadith has also been narrated from Ibn

Umar ؓ that when he passed by some people playing the game of chess, he compared their practice (of playing chess) with the worship of idols.”

Our Nabi ﷺ said:

كل شيء من لهو الدنيا باطل الا ثلاثة انتضالك بقوسك وتاديبك فرسك
وملاعبتك اهلك (الحديث)

“Every play of the world is Baatil (null and not permissible), but, three types of play (are not Baatil); your practising with your crossbow; your training your horse; and, your playing with your family.”

اي ماتلهي وتشتغل عما يفيد من الاحاديث التي لا اصل لها والاساطير
التي لا اعتبار فيها والمضاحيك فضول الكلام.

“i.e. That which diverts the attention from things which are of benefit, such as stories which have no true basis, amusements and futile talk.” (Tafseerul Mazhari)

Although the reason for the revelation of these ayats was specific, i.e. they were revealed to forbid music, singing and novels, they have general application in so far as the guidance of man is concerned, hence, Allah Ta’ala uses a general term, viz لهو الحديث. If the purpose of the verse was to forbid only music or novels, then it would have been revealed with specific terms indicating what actually is prohibited — in this case music and novels. However, it is the intention of Allah Ta’ala to save His servants from all such practices which will have the same effect as music, singing and novels on His servants. Precisely for this reason are the terms Lahwal Hadeeth لهو الحديث used. And, the term Lahw لهو in Arabic means all such things which divert the mind of man — and, in the case of Muslims, divert the mind of the Believer from the Remembrance of Allah Ta’ala, The Warning of a dreadful punishment sounded in these verses of the Quran applies to, not only music and novels,

but to all such practices and things which constitute LAHW لَهْو — 'futility' nonsense, and diverting from the Remembrance of Allah. Now if the terrible punishment is for only the single crime of music or novels, then the warning of the verse shall apply to a greater extent to an institution which is a conglomeration of many evils. Thus television, on the basis of Principles of Fiqh (Islamic Law) — the Shariah — is aptly covered by the abovementioned verses of the Holy Quran, by the Ahadith of our Nabi ﷺ mentioned herein as well as by many other Ahadith and the Quran.

For all the reasons stated in this article, television can never be passed as lawful (JAIZ) on the basis of the Shariah. The evils are too many, the harmful effects are disastrous, and the immorality gorged out by television is ruinous to the moral structure of mankind. Islam can, therefore have no truck with such a destructive institution as television.

Muslim have a sacred duty and obligation unto Allah Ta'ala, and a sacred responsibility to their children, viz, to abstain from the evil of television so as to gain the Pleasure of Allah; to be saved from the chastisement of the Hereafter; and, to protect their children from it. In another Hadith our Nabi ﷺ said:

لَهْوُ الْمُؤْمِنِ بَاطِلُ الْحَدِيثِ

"The play of a Believer is Baatil.

The playing of chess is not accompanied by so many evils as are attendant to television, yet Allah Ta'ala has declared it (chess) banned in Islam. Said our Nabi ﷺ:

مَنْ لَعِبَ بِالشَّطْرَنْجِ وَالرَّدِّ فَكَأَنَّمَا غَمَسَ يَدَهُ فِي دَمِ خَنْزِيرٍ

"Whoever plays chess has soiled his hands in the blood of a swine."

It is very simple for a Believer to understand what the attitude of Islam is with regard to television with its fanfare of immorality when the attitude of Islam to games such as chess and amusement, singing, music, etc., is of uncompromising prohibition.

In the Holy Quran, Allah Ta'ala says.

وَمِنَ النَّاسِ مَنْ يَشْتَرِي لَهْوَ الْحَدِيثِ لِيُضِلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ بِغَيْرِ عِلْمٍ،
وَيَتَّخِذَهَا هُزُوًا، أُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ مُّهِينٌ ۝ وَإِذَا تُلِيٰ عَلَيْهِ آيَاتُنَا وَلِيَّ
مُسْتَكْبِرًا كَانَ لَهُمْ يَسْمَعُهَا كَآَنَ فِيْٓ أُذُنَيْهِ وَقَرَّآ، فَبَشِّرْهُ بِعَذَابٍ أَلِيمٍ ۝

"And amongst men, are those who purchase idle-tales without any knowledge;

So that they may mislead (men) from the Path of Allah; And, they make a mockery of the Laws (of Allah); They are the ones for whom there is a disgraceful punishment; And, when our Laws are rehearsed to them, they turn away in pride as if they did not hear them;

As if there are plugs in their ears;

Give them the news of a dreadful punishment."

(Quran, S'urah Luqmaan)

The commentators (Mufasssireen) of the Quran and the Fuqaha (Jurists) say that this verse was specifically revealed to declare as unlawful music, singing and novels (romances) which divert man's attention from Allah Ta'ala. The Mufasssireen define the terms: "idle-tales," (لهو الحديث) which appear in these verses as follows: moral and spiritual destruction which ensues in the wake of television. Allah Ta'ala, in stating some of the noble qualities of the Believers, says in the Quran:

وَإِذَا سَمِعُوا اللَّغْوَ أَعْرَضُوا عَنْهُ وَقَالُوا لَنَا أَعْمَالُنَا وَلَكُمْ أَعْمَالُكُمْ، سَلَامٌ عَلَيْكُمْ لَا تَبْتَغِي الْجَاهِلِينَ.

"And, when they hear LAGHW (futility and non sense) they turn away from it, and, they say:

For us, our deeds, and for you, your deeds:

Peace be upon you;

We do not follow the ignorant ones.”

And, Allah Ta'ala says about the Believers:

وَإِذَا مَرُّوا بِاللَّغْوِ مَرُّوا كِرَامًا

“And, when they pass (by chance), upon laghw (futility and sin) they pass by it in noble dignity (i.e. they do not indulge in it).”

May Allah Ta'ala, in His Infinite Mercy, protect us all from the evil of television, Ameen. وَاللّٰهُ اعْلَم

Says the Holy Prophet ﷺ

Hazrat Jaber رضي الله عنه reported that the Messenger of Allah said in the Farewell Pilgrimage: And I have left among you a thing which if you adhere to, you will never be misguided after this — the Book of Allah and what you get from me by question (Hadis). (Muslim)

Hazrat Abu Rafe' reported that the Messenger of Allah said: Never do I (wish to) see any of you reclining on his couch, and (whenever) an injunction out of my instructions concerning that which I have enjoined him or prohibited comes to him, he says: I don't know. What we have found in the Book of Allah, we have followed.¹ (Ahmed, Ibn Majah, Tirmizl, Abu Daud)

-
1. Such men as described above will appear in latter days and will be heard to say that obedience to the Quran only would be sufficient for salvation; and Hadis would be kept in the background. But the fools do not understand that the Quran also was recited by the Prophet (SAW.) just as he did with Hadis, and that Hadis is commentary of the Quran and its supplementary. Who can have a greater knowledge of interpreting the Quran than the Prophet (SAW.) himself through whose mouth the Quran came as a revelation from Allah.

THE PICTURES OF TELEVISION

The Holy Messenger of Allah ﷺ said:

**"The Severest Punishment On The Day Of Qiyamah
Will Be For The Picture-Makers."**

Without any doubt, the Consensus of Islamic legal opinion is that pictures of living objects are Haraam (unlawful-forbidden). Not a single Islamic Law Book or a single Jurist of Islam has given a contrary opinion. It is only some of the "learned" ones of the 20th century who have and are endeavouring to abrogate the Law of Allah by despicably attempting to legalise pictures of animate objects. The Law of Allah on pictures of human beings or animals is FINAL and IRREVOCABLE. Pictures are condemned and outlawed by the Shariah.

Television is a medium whose very "life" and existence is dependant on pictures and the institution of picture-production. Without pictures there is no television. The very term television means:

"The electrical transmission of pictures in motion.

Islam forbids all uses and so-called benefits derived from pictures. Thus

- i. the making of pictures
- ii. the keeping of pictures
- iii. entering houses wherein there are pictures displayed
- iv. looking and gazing at pictures with desire or satisfaction are all forbidden in Islam.

A person who keeps a picture or a photo of an animate object is guilty of transgressing one or two of the abovementioned Islamic prohibitions associated with pictures, for he may keep a picture without displaying it and looking at it occasionally. But, one who purchases a television set and enjoys its programmes is guilty of breaching all the Islamic prohibitions set out above. Let us deal with each factor individually.

MAKING OF PICTURES

The first and foremost warning of Islam against pictures is directed at the picture-makers. Our Holy Nabi Muhammad ﷺ said:

كل مصور في النار (الحديث)

“Every picture-maker will be in the Fire.”

اشد الناس عذابا يوم القيمة المصورون (الحديث)

“The severest punished person on the Day of Qiyamah will be for the picture makers”.

اشد الناس عذاب يوم القيمة الذين يتظاهرون بخلق الله (الحديث)

“The severest punished person on the Day of Qiyamah will be those who imitated Allah’s aspects of creation.”

(N.B.: Our Nabi ﷺ made this statement while destroying a picture.)

The television instrument is a medium which not only displays, but actually produces pictures. By switching on your TV set you are actually assisting in picture-production, thus qualifying to be branded as the evil ones mentioned in the Ahadith of our Nabi ﷺ pertaining to picture-prohibition. The TV Times and Colour Magazine of the Sunday Times describes the way in which TV produces pictures as follows:

“Let us start with the TV camera. Your experience with cameras is probably limited to the one you have at home, which records the

photographic image on film negative which after chemical treatment, is used to print a permanent picture on photographic paper.

"There is no known way of sending a whole picture through the air in one piece. It has to be sent bit by bit by electric impulses. The best analogy for me to use is the black and white picture in a newspaper.

"...The TV camera follows the same principle. It sends out electric impulses, which are picked up by the picture tube in your set.

More than a million dots are needed to cover your screen, and the process of scanning the 625 lines is repeated 25 times every second. So you get the impression of receiving a complete, moving picture instead of one that in fact builds itself down the face of your screen."

The Encyclopaedia Britannica explains:

"The eye is unaware that the picture is being reassembled piecemeal, and the viewing screen appears as if its whole surface were continuously illuminated."

"By the same token, it is then possible to re-create more than ten complete pictures per second and to simulate thereby the motion of the scene so that it appears to be continuous.

"In practice, to depict rapid movement smoothly, it is customary to transmit from 25 to 30 complete pictures per second."

"Actually, the screen possesses nearly 1000 000 holes in an area of 1,5 sq' in. compared with roughly 200 000 picture elements into which the image is dissected."

The above description of the method in which TV makes pictures shows that you who indulge in TV are guilty of Kabirah sin (great sin) of producing pictures for which terrible chastisement has been threatened by our Nabi ﷺ.

KEEPING OF PICTURES

Islam has likewise forbidden the keeping of pictures of animate

objects. Rasulullah ﷺ said:

لاتدخل الملائكة بيتا فيه كلب او تصاوير.

"The Angels (of Mercy) do not enter a house wherein there are pictures or a dog"

عن عائشة قدم ﷺ وقد سترت بقرام على سهوة لى فيه تصاوير فنزعه وقال
اشد الناس عذابا يوم القيمة الذين يضاھون بخلق الله.

"Aisha (Radiyallahu Anha) narrates:

"The Messenger of Allah ﷺ returned from a journey and I had screened (the entrance) with a curtain on which were pictures. Rasulullah ﷺ ripped it (the curtain) off and said: The severest punished people on the Day of Qiyamah will be those who imitate Allah's aspects of creation (i.e. life)"

Another reason for the prohibition of keeping pictures is the factor of Tashabbuh bil Kuffaar تشبه بالكفار or imitating the unbelievers. Picture-making and keeping of pictures is primarily the past-time and 'art'-occupation of the Kuffaar. Hazrat Mufti Mohammed Shafi', Grand Mufti of Pakistan, says:

"One of the factors for the prohibition of pictures is Tashabbuh bil Kuffaar تشبه بالكفار"

Angels of Mercy do not enter your home when your TV set is portraying the pictures of animate objects. Our Nabi ﷺ commanded that pictures be destroyed, but the lover of television acts in direct contradiction to the command of Rasulullah ﷺ by bringing into existence pictures by way of the institution of TV. Ponder over the following Hadith:

"Aishah (Radiyallahu Anha) said that she had purchased a carpet which had pictures on it. When the Messenger of Allah ﷺ saw it he remained outside (the house) and did not enter. She said: 'I perceived signs of disgust on his face'. She then said: 'O Messenger of

Allah ﷻ what is the sin which I have committed?' Rasulullah ﷺ replied: 'What is this carpet?' Aisha (Radiyallahu Ahna) said: 'I bought it for you so that you might sit on it and recline.' Rasulullah ﷺ said: 'The owners of these pictures will be punished, and they will be commanded to give life to what they tried to create' He then said: 'Angels do not enter the house in which there is a picture'."

In another Hadith our Nabi ﷺ said that Prophets of Allah do not enter houses wherein there are pictures. The Fuqahaa (Jurists of Islam) say on the basis of these Ahadith that it is not permissible for a Muslim to enter a house in which pictures of living beings are displayed.

So, when you switch on your television set then remember that you are guilty of the Kabirah (great) sin of keeping and displaying pictures in your home. Your home is therefore deprived of Allah's Rahmat (Mercy); the Angels of Mercy do not enter your home; the shayaateen (satans) enter your home and Allah Ta'ala's Wrath and our Nabi's displeasure settles with you. In maintaining the TV pictures on your TV screen you are just as guilty as the one who decorates his walls and home with still pictures. You should know that the pictures on the television screen are also STILL PICTURES like all other pictures or photos. The motion you see on your TV screen is illusory and false. The "motion" depicted on the screen is simulated by the rapid transmission of a large number of STILL pictures. The Encyclopaedia Britannica states:

"... By the same token, it is then possible to re-create more than ten complete pictures per second and to simulate thereby the motion of the scene so that it appears to be continuous.

"In practice, to depict rapid movement smoothly, it is customary to transmit from 25 to 30 complete pictures per second."

The Encyclopaedia International states:

"The illusion of motion in television is produced by showing 30 STILL PICTURES, or frames, each second. Through persistence

of vision the brain retains each picture until the next comes along. We are not aware of the fact that our eyes are really seeing a rapidly changing sequence of a large number of slightly different still pictures."

ENTERING HOMES WHEREIN PICTURES ARE DISPLAYED

The abhorrence of Islam for pictures of living things is so great that even entry into houses wherein pictures are displayed is not permissible. The Angels of Mercy do not enter such houses. Said the Holy Messenger of Allah ﷺ:

لاتدخل الملائكة بيتا فيه كلب أو صورة.

"The Angels (of Mercy) do not enter homes wherein there is a dog or a picture."

Prophets of Allah do not enter homes wherein there are pictures displayed. The following incident in this regard is related by the noble wife of Rasulullah ﷺ, Aisha (Radiyahallahu Anha):

عن عائشة انها اشترت نمرقة فيها تصاوير فلما رآها رسول الله ﷺ قام على الباب فلم يدخل فعرفت في وجهه الكراهة فقالت يا رسول الله ﷺ اتوب الى الله والى رسوله فماذا اذنبت فقال رسول الله ﷺ ما بال هذه النمرقة قالت اشتريتها لك تقعد عليها وتوسدها فقال رسول الله ﷺ ان اصحاب هذه الصور يعذبون ويقال لهم احيوا ما خلقتم ثم قال ان البيت الذي فيه الصور لاتدخله الملائكة.

"She had purchased a cushion decorated with pictures. When Rasulullah ﷺ saw it, he remained outside at the entrance, and did not enter. She perceived disgust on his face, hence she said: 'O Messenger of Allah ﷺ — I repent unto Allah and His Messenger. What sin have I committed?' Rasulullah ﷺ replied: 'What is this cushion for?' She said: 'I bought it for you to sit on and recline'. Rasulullah ﷺ said: 'Verily, the owners of

these pictures will be punished, and it will be said to them; Give life to that which you tried to create'. Rasulullah ﷺ added: 'Verily, the home which has pictures in it is not visited by Angels'."

Imam Nawawi (Ra.) states in Sharhul Muslim that Imam Zuhri (Ra.) baid:

"It is not permissible to use an object with pictures on it nor is it permissible to enter a house wherein there are pictures."

Shaikh Mustafaa Hammami (Ra.) of Egypt writes:

"I take oath by Allah and say that the view expounded by Imam Zuhri (Ra.) appeals to me greatly. By the Grace of Allah, I have investigated (this question) and hold the opinion held by Imam Zuhri (Ra.), because when pictures have been totally forbidden, then reason demands that every use derived from pictures be Haraam, otherwise it will be tantamount to rendering aid to the practice of pictures. And, aiding and abetting what is unlawful is likewise Haraam.

"When the Angels do not enter a building in which there are pictures and when Rasulullah ﷺ is angered to such an extent by the presence of pictures that he refuses to enter the house, then it is quite obvious that a Muslim who follows the Angels and obeys Rasulullah ﷺ cannot enter a house wherein there are pictures. Now you (O reader) decide for yourself what the result will be of those whose homes and walls are decorated with pictures." (Bayyinaat)

Now when you switch on your TV set then remember that you are guilty of the sinful act of displaying pictures in your home. So when the TV is playing in your home it is not permissible for Muslims to enter your home. The Angels do not enter such a home and Rasulullah did not enter and chose to remain outside in disgust. In playing your TV set you are guilty of aiding and abetting a naked act of Haraam. And, Allah Ta'ala commands in the Holy Quran:

ولا تعاونوا على الاثم والعدوان

“And, do not assist each other in sin and transgression.”

LOOKING AT PICTURES OF ANIMATE OBJECTS

The Shariah of Islam has declared pictures of animate objects totally Haraam (unlawful-forbidden), hence it is not permissible to derive any type of benefit or use from pictures. The prime purpose of a picture is to look and to gaze at it thus deriving mental satisfaction and pleasure. A picture is of no use to a blind person. He cannot admire or criticise it. Since a picture is produced to be admired, to be looked at, to be gazed at, LOOKING with admiration or looking with satisfaction at it will constitute the fulfilment of the actual and prime purpose of picture-making. A picture is meant to be looked at and admired. Thus in fulfilling the purpose of pictures which are Haraam we are aiding this Haraam practice of pictures, and in so doing we are transgressing Allah Ta'ala's Command in the Quran:

ولا تعاونوا على الاثم والعدوان.

“And, do not aid (each other) in sin and transgression.

The Shariah ordains:

“To derive pleasure (or satisfaction) by looking at Haraam objects is Haraam.”

Mufti Mohammed Shafi, Grand Mufti of Pakistan, states:

اگرچہ اس تصویر کی طرف کوئی امر مکروہ بھی منسوب نہ کیا گیا ہو محض تفریح و تہذیب کے لیے ہی ہو کیونکہ محرمات شرعیہ سے تہذیب و تفریح بھی حرام ہے۔

“Even though nothing evil is associated with the picture, even if it (looking) is merely for the purpose of amusement or obtaining mental pleasure or satisfaction because to derive satisfaction and pleasure by looking at things which the Shariah has forbidden is also Haraam.”

The following is, recorded in the authoritative Book of Islamic

Law, Durrul Mukhtaar:

وحرم الانتفاع بها (اي بالخمير) ولولسقى دواب او الطين او نظر لتلهي

“The acquisition of benefit (or use) from alcohol is Haraam even though (the benefit or use) may be giving it to animals to drink or “watering” the soil or looking at it (alcohol) to gain pleasure (or satisfaction)”

It was stated earlier that even if no evil factor is associated with the picture, looking at it is not permissible because a picture according to Allah's Law is Haraam, and the most important use or benefit of a picture is to look, gaze and admire it. If any un-Islamic element or evil factor is associated with the picture, e.g. the picture is of a female or a woman whose satar is uncovered or the picture is of a person consuming or advertising alcohol, etc., then the prohibition of looking at such a picture will be stronger.

(N.B. Satar, i.e. that part of the human body the covering of which is compulsory according to the Shariah. The Satar of a man is from the navel to just below the knees. The Satar of a woman is from head to feet.)

Thus, it is not permissible for men to look at women:

عن جابر ابن عبد الله قال سالت رسول الله ﷺ عن نظر الفجأة فامرني ان اصرف بصري

“Hazrat Jaabir رضي الله عنه reports: ‘I asked Rasulullah ﷺ about the gaze which falls suddenly (and unintentionally on a woman), and he (Rasulullah) ordered me to divert my gaze (from the woman on which the gaze fell suddenly).”

Allah Ta'ala says in the Holy Quran:

قل للمؤمنين يغضوا من ابصارهم ويحفظوا فروجهم.....
وقل للمؤمنات يغضضن من ابصارهن ويحفظن فروجهن.....

“Say (O Muhammad) unto the Believing men:

Cast down your gaze and guard your modesty....

And, say unto the Believing women:

Cast down your gaze and guard your modesty.

Like it is not permissible for males to gaze at females, it is not permissible for females to gaze at males. The abovementioned verse of the Holy Quran is explicit in this prohibition. Our Nabi ﷺ also ordered women not to gaze at men:

عن ام سلمة انها كانت عند رسول الله ﷺ وميمونة اذا اقبل ابن مكتوم فدخل عليه فقال رسول الله ﷺ احتجبا منه فقلت يا رسول الله اليس هو اعشى لا يصرنا فقال رسول الله ﷺ افعميا وان انتما الستما تبصرانه.

“Umme Salmah (Radiyahu Anha) narrates that she and Maimunah (Radiyahu Anha) were with Rasulallah ﷺ when Ibn Umme Maktoom (who was a blind Sahabi) came to Rasulallah ﷺ. Rasulallah ﷺ ordered them (i.e. his wives): ‘Seclude yourselves from him (the blind Sahabi)!’ I said: ‘O Rasulallah ﷺ. But he is blind, he cannot see us.’ Rasulallah ﷺ replied: ‘Are both of you blind as well? Can you not see him?’”

عن علي كان عند النبي ﷺ فقال اي شئ خير المرأة فسكتوا قال فلما رجعت قلت لفاطمة اي شئ خير للنساء قالت لا يرين الرجال ولا يريهن فذكرت ذلك للنبي ﷺ فقال فاطمة يضة مني.

“Ali ﷺ narrates that he was once with Nabi ﷺ when he (Rasulullah) asked: ‘What is best for women?’ They (the Sahabas) remained silent (i.e. no one answered). Ali said: ‘When I returned (home) I asked Fatimah (Radiyahu Anha): ‘What is best for women?’, and she replied: They should not look at men nor should men look at them (women). I, then narrated this to Nabi ﷺ who replied: Fatimah is a part of me (i.e. she said what I wanted to say — she understood it well).”

There are many other Ahadith of our Nabi ﷺ on the same subject, i.e. forbidding the sexes gazing at one another. Leave alone gazing at women, our Nabi ﷺ forbade males looking at even the thighs of men:

قال رسول الله ﷺ يا علي ان الفخذ عورة لا تبذروا فخذك ولا تنظر الى فخذ حي ولا ميت.

“Rasulullah ﷺ said: ‘O Ali! Verily, the thigh is an object of concealment (satar).

Never reveal your thigh, nor look at the thigh of a living or a dead person.”

And, leave alone looking at the satar of men or women, the Shariah ordains that it is not permissible to look at even the clothing of women if this stirs up passion in a man.

ان رؤية الثوب بحيث يصف حجم العضو ممنوعة ولو كثيفا لا ترى البشرة منه. (الدر المختار)

“Verily, looking at clothes (of females) with lust is forbidden even though the clothing be such that the body cannot be seen through it.”

It will be seen that “looking with lust” is a crime in Islam. Now, wherever this element (علت) is present, the ruling of prohibition (حكم حرمت) will apply. Whether looking at a woman or at the picture of a woman, the ruling of prohibition will apply because the element of lust exists in both cases. The Fuqahaa have clarified this point for us:

وفيه في بحث النظر الى الاجنبية من المرأة او الماء..... بخلاف النظر لانه انما منع منه حيثه الفتنة والشهود وذلك موجوده هنا. (الدر المختار)

“...This (the prohibition of looking with lust) is contained in the chapter of ‘looking at a female via a mirror or water (i.e. looking at her reflection in the

mirror or in water) looking (at females) is forbidden because of the presence of the lust, and that (element of lust) exists here' (i.e. looking at a woman or at her reflection in a mirror)."

Mufti Muhammad Shafi: Grand Mufti of Pakistan States:

اور اگر وہ تصویر کسی مشتبہ کی ہو تو نظر بد کی معصیت کا اس میں اور اضافہ ہو جاتا ہے۔ اور تصویر تو صاحب تصویر کی پوری حکایت ہے! حتمیہ کے تو کپڑے کو بھی بد نفسی سے دیکھنا حرام ہے۔

"And, if the picture is of a female, there will be the added sin of evil-gazing. A picture is a complete report or description of the person it depicts. Leave alone the picture of a female it is Haraam to look with lust at even the garments of a woman."

The Shariah has forbidden "looking with desire" at women; it has declared Haraam "looking without even desire or lust" at the Satar of males or females; it has banned "looking at the garments of females with lust"; the Shariah has forbidden "looking with desire" at even alcohol; the Shariah ordains that it is forbidden to look at even the reflection of women in a mirror — therefore it can never be permissible to look at pictures of women, especially the pictures of scantily clad women on TV performing in a "life-like" manner.

You will now be in a position to easily understand that the Shariah has forbidden looking at unlawful things with desire or lust, and every PICTURE ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN IS HARAAM, hence looking with satisfaction, amusement and enjoyment at it is HARAAM. You are committing a Kabirah (great) sin by your constant gazing at the Haraam on your Television screen.

THE FEMALE VOICE

The female voice, according to Islam, is also included in the

category of Satar, i.e. it has to be "concealed" and not "revealed". Since the female voice is an entity not to be displayed or advertised, it is not permissible for males to listen to women singing or even reciting the Holy Quran. Allah Ta'alah, the Creator, is well aware of the lure for men which exists in the female voice, hence women in Islam are not permitted to raise their voices when speaking; they are not permitted to recite the Quran aloud if men are in the vicinity; they are not permitted to recite aloud during Salaat. When necessity demands that they have to speak to males then their speech should not be attractive, gentle and alluring like the deliberate "lure" put in speech by "trained" women of the Kuffar. Recognising the danger of allurements in the female voice, the Holy Quran commands women thus:

وَلَا تَخْضَعْنَ بِالْقَوْلِ فَيَطْمَعَ الَّذِي فِي قَلْبِهِ مَرَضٌ

"And, do not speak in alluring tones so that he in whose heart there is a disease (of lust) desires."

The indulgence in soft alluring speech by women is a cause of raising amorous hopes in the listener, as speech of women is an important source of sexual excitation. Van de Velde in his book, *IDEAL MARRIAGE*, states:

"The tone-colour of a voice, and the intonation of a single word — and it may be a word of no special meaning or association in itself — may excite incredible intensity of desire. The unique and precious significance that a woman's voice can give to "you" or "thou" can suffice to overwhelm man's power of endurance and control.

Islam has, hence, forbidden its women to speak in a soft or "sexually" sweet tone. If anyone is aware of the springs of sex-psychology he will clearly see the justification for Islam's restriction in this matter.

Islam commands the concealment of the female voice and prohibits its display in public, but television demands the contrary.

Great use is made of the female voice on TV to advertise, to allure, to excite lust, and female singing with the accompaniment of music is most popular. Mufti Mohammed Shafi' says:

“It is categorically Haraam — and it is Haraam without any difference of opinion — to listen on a gramophone to such a voice, the listening to which is Haraam in the real state. For example — singing of women even without music, and singing of men with music.”

جس آواز کا سننا اصل سے حرام ہے اس کا گراموفون میں بھی سننا قطعاً بلا اختلاف حرام ہے
مثلاً عورتوں کا گانا اگرچہ بلا مزہ میں ہو۔ اور مردوں کا گانا مع مزہ میں۔

Television portrays voices, many of which are unlawful according to Islam, e.g. the female voice, the male voice singing with music. And this portrayal of unlawful voices and sounds is done in no small measure. The importance of television programmes, like the importance of all the mass media of the Kuffaar, hinges on maximum exhibition of the female body and the female voice which have been subverted by the bestial culture of the unbelievers, to pamper the inordinate sexual desires of men who have no belief of Allah in them — of men who have no fear of Allah left in them.

SERIALS, ROMANCES AND STORIES ON TELEVISION

What is Islam's attitude to fiction, novels and romantic stories? Allah Ta'ala says in the Holy Quran:

ومن الناس من يشتري لهو الحديث ليضل عن سبيل الله بغير علم.
ويتخذها هُزُوًا أولئك لهم عذاب مهين ۝ وإذا تتلى عليه آيتنا ولى
مستكبرا كان لم يسمعها كان في أذنيه وقرا. فبشره بعذاب اليم.

“And among mankind are those who purchase idle tales so as to lead astray (others) from the Path of Allah.

And, they make a mockery of the Laws of Allah. To them, there is a disgraceful punishment. And, when our verses are rehearsed to them they turn away in pride as if they did not hear, as if there are plugs in their ears. Give them the news of a painful punishment."

These verses of the Holy Quran were revealed to prohibit, according to the Mufasssireen and Jurists, music and the stories of romances imported from Persia. Since these things divert man's attention from Zikrullah and transport one into the realm of illusion and imagination the Quran outlaws them. Islam strongly discourages fiction and encourages one to live in reality and not in illusion which has the tendency to make one negligent and forgetful of the prime purpose, of man's creation which is to gain Allah's Pleasure by fixing the gaze on the Akhirat (Hereafter) and not on the TV screen. Islam, therefore forbids the wasting of time in listening to idle tales and fiction or false stories.

السهر في اساطير الاولين والاحاديث الكاذبة والسخوية والضحك فهو
مكروه. (فتاوى عالم گيرى)

"It is forbidden to stay awake at night and spend the time in tales (fiction), false stories, jokes (amusement, entertainment) and laughter (derived by way of amusements)."

(Fatawa Alamgiri)

وفي النوازل قراءة شعر الاديب اذا كان فيه الفسق والخمر يكره.
(فتاوى عالم گيرى)

"It is reported in Nawaazil:

'It is forbidden to recite the verses of a poet if these (verses) deal with evil and alcohol." (Fatawa Alamgiri)

Allah Ta'ala says in the Holy Quran:

"The Life of the world is but play and amusement. And, the abode of the Hereafter is best for those who fear (Allah)."

It is now quite simple to understand the attitude of Islam towards amusements, serials, romances and downright evil exhibitions of television. Islam cannot permit the squandering of precious time and talent in watching the TV screen vomiting out the filth and immorality of the Kuffaar. Islam does not condone its youth sitting up at night and becoming the victims of the brainwashing effects of the evil sounded and portrayed by TV. Islam and a Muslim can have no association with an instrument such as television which portrays and advertises the very evils banned by the Shariah of Islam.

Allah Taala says in Holy Quran

"And amongst men are those who purchase idle tales.....". Television is perhaps the greatest instrument of idle-tales and this book categorically explains the worldly as well as '*Ukhravi*' sufferings caused by Television.

ISBN 81-7101-540-9 www.idara.com

